

That is why the CROWDFUND Act will tap the opportunity of crowd-funding while reducing the risks.

The CROWDFUND Act provides a capital-raising alternative for startups and other small businesses, while not undercutting essential investor protections. It allows companies to raise up to \$1 million each year from ordinary Americans. It provides more disclosure, more accountability and accuracy, and limits the exposure of any individual investor.

I thank my colleague Senator BENNET for joining me in this effort, and I hope to partner with more of my colleagues to move this idea forward in the days to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER L. CUGINI

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Christopher L. Cugini, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Chris is a graduate of Glen Oak High School in Canton, OH. Currently, he is attending the University of Mount Union in Alliance, OH, where he is majoring in communication. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chris for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT CUYLER HASKINS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Robert Cuyler Haskins, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Cuyler is a graduate of L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, TX. Currently, he is attending Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Cuyler for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATI M. SEYMOUR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kati M. Seymour, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kati is a graduate of Jones County High School in Murdo, SD. This past August, Kati graduated from Sinte Gleska University in Mission, SD,

where she majored in English and American history. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kati for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE MATTHIES

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Michelle Matthies, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Michelle is a graduate of Parker High School in Parker, SD. Currently, she is attending Augustana College, where she is majoring in English and secondary education. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michelle for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ELDEN HUGHES

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, last weekend California and the Nation lost one of our great environmental champions when Elden Hughes died at his desert home in Joshua Tree, CA, at age 80.

As a longtime activist with the Sierra Club and former president of its Angeles Chapter, Elden led successful campaigns to protect California's wild rivers and preserve the historic Union Pacific Railroad depot in the desert town of Kelso, CA.

But Elden Hughes is best known and fondly remembered as one of the tireless leaders of the long grassroots effort to enact the 1994 California Desert Protection Act, which created a new national park in the Eastern Mojave Desert and established higher levels of protection for Death Valley, Joshua Tree, and other desert lands.

Elden was born in 1931 in Whittier, CA, the son of cattle farmers from Modoc County. When he was 13, the family moved out of town and bought a ranch where Elden made enough money raising hogs to buy an old car and begin a lifetime of exploring California's wild places. After earning his way through college, he worked in the family plumbing supply business, which he then sold to become the executive vice president of a major computer service company.

Elden's interest in river-running, spelunking, archaeology, nature photography, and the desert led him to join Sierra Club expeditions and gradually become involved in the club's conservation activities. In the early 1980s, he led a grassroots letter-writing cam-

paign that convinced California Senator Pete Wilson to sponsor "wild and scenic" designation for a major stretch of the Tuolumne River. In the late 1980s, Elden led the successful "three rivers campaign" that obtained wild and scenic designations for portions of the Kings, Kern, and Merced Rivers.

Elden worked with Congressman JERRY LEWIS to save the historic Kelso Depot, in what was then the Eastern Mojave National Scenic Area. Showing their usual flair and creativity, Elvin and his wife Patty galvanized public opinion on the depot issue by convincing Amtrak to run a special "Desert Wind" train from Los Angeles to Kelso, where Elden led the crowd in singing railroad songs.

In 1986, as the new chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Elden was invited to attend a press conference on the introduction of the first Desert Bill, authored by Senator Alan Cranston. He brought along some of his photos of the Mojave and was soon leading a group of amateur photographers on a 2-year project cataloguing the fragile beauty of this unique natural area.

In 1990, Elden retired from business to become the west coast spokesman for the Desert Bill. He was a natural, and the media loved him. As Frank Wheat noted in his book "California Desert Miracle," Elden was also "knowledgeable, quotable, pleasant to be with, and willing to go to great lengths to show members of the press what the Desert Bill was intended to protect. Soon he was drawing reporters as a lamp draws moths."

Meanwhile, Elden and Patty had adopted a pair of abandoned pet tortoises and successfully bred a new family. When the babies were 5 months old, Elden and Patty took them on a cross-country tour to raise media and public interest in protecting the desert tortoise. Over the years, they made nine trips to Washington, DC, to gain congressional support for the Desert Bill. Once, when an airline security guard told them they couldn't bring pet tortoises on the plane, Patty said, "They aren't pets, they're lobbyists."

Finally, in 1994, Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act, and I was proud to cosponsor this bill with Senator FEINSTEIN. Elden Hughes was instrumental in passing this landmark legislation. Today, the Mojave National Preserve and the Kelso Depot stand as monuments to this joyous, creative, and inexhaustible man who did so much to protect California's priceless natural heritage.

On behalf of the people of California, who have benefitted so much from Elden's life work, I send my deepest gratitude and condolences to his wife Patty; his sons, Mark, Paul, and Charles; and his three grandchildren.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1541. An act to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1639. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

At 1:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 10. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

H.R. 944. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1254. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I.

H.R. 1560. An act to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe.

H.R. 2351. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

H.R. 2360. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to extend the Constitution, laws, and jurisdiction of the United States to installations and devices attached to the seabed of the Outer Continental Shelf for the production and support of production of energy from sources other than oil and gas, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 535. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 683. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution to authorize the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 470, an Act to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 535. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 683. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 10. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 944. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1021. An act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1254. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1560. An act to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 2351. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2360. An act to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to extend the Constitution, laws, and jurisdiction of the United States to installations and devices attached to the seabed of the Outer Continental Shelf for the production and support of production of energy from sources other than oil and gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1541. An act to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1639. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide

guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1400. A bill to restore the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of Gulf Coast States, to create jobs and revive the economic health of communities adversely affected by the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-100).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 678. A bill to increase the penalties for economic espionage.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1886. A bill to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Rebecca M. Blank, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

*Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2011.

*Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2010.

*Jon D. Leibowitz, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for a term of seven years *pm September 26, 2010.

*Maureen K. Ohlhausen, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for a term of seven years from September 26, 2011.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Kathryn Keneally, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 1963. A bill to revoke the charters for the Federal National Mortgage Corporation and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation upon resolution of their obligations, to create a new Mortgage Finance Agency for the securitization of single family and multifamily mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.